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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 5439
Peter PÖCHLAUER et al. : Docket No. 2001-0331A
Serial No. 09/834,926 : Group Art Unit 1623
Filed April 16, 2001 : Examiner P. Zucker

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF :
OPTICALLY AND CHEMICALLY
HIGHLY PURE (R)- or (S)- α -HYDROXYCAR-
BOXYLIC ACIDS

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claim:

23. (New) A process for the preparation of optically and chemically highly pure (R)- and (S)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, which consists essentially of recrystallizing impure (R)- and (S)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, prepared by acidic hydrolysis of the (R)- and (S)-cyanohydrins obtained by enzyme-catalyzed addition of a cyanide group to the corresponding aldehydes or ketones, in an aromatic hydrocarbon, optionally in the presence of a co-solvent, to form an organic phase and wherein the co-solvent increases the solubility of the hydroxycarboxylic acids in said organic phase, and obtaining

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optically and chemically highly pure (*R*)- and (*S*)- α -hydroxycarboxylic acids having an optical purity of over 98%ee.
